

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-25 are pending in the application. Claims 12-19 read on elected species B, directed to forming first and second surfaces and coating those which are to be reflective. Claims 1-11 and 20-25 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to non-elected species.

Applicants previously filed an appeal brief in this case. Upon reconsideration and discovery of a new reference, the Examiner reopened prosecution in this case.

Claims 12 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by PCT Publication WO 00/41009 (see Clabburn equivalent US Patent 6,724,535, Figs. 1a and 1b and column 3, lines 5-21).

Clabburn discloses in column 3, lines 5-21 that the stepped upper surface of the light diffusing sheet of Fig. 1b is rendered reflective by metallization, e.g., applied by vapor deposition or by sputtering. According to the Examiner, a close look at Figs. 1a and 1b of Clabburn shows that only the top - *i.e.*, faceted or stepped-surfaces are actually coated, since the shading indicative of the reflective coating only occurs on those surfaces. In support, the Examiner refers to column 3, lines 17-21 of Clabburn which states that the reflective surface may be only partially light redirecting and partially light transmitting instead of being fully light transmitting.

However, it is respectfully submitted that the disclosure of Clabburn is no different from the disclosure in column 5, lines 35-56 of Akins et al US Patent 6,285,425 (previously relied on by the Examiner to reject the claims) which states that the metallic layer may be made sufficiently thin such that it is discontinuous to permit partial transmission of light through the reflective surface; not by not applying a reflective

coating on the second surfaces or areas between the first surfaces or areas so the second surfaces or areas transmit light from a backlight as recited in claim 12.

Accordingly, claim 12 is submitted as clearly allowable over Clabburn.

Claim 15 depends on claim 12 and is submitted as allowable for substantially the same reasons.

Claims 12, 13 and 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over PCT Publication WO 00/41009 (see Clabburn, the US equivalent), either alone, or further in view of Akins et al US Patent 6,285,425 (see column 10, lines 23-30). According to the Examiner, Clabburn actually teaches applying a reflective coating onto certain first portions of a reflecting surface while second portions are not being so coated, so as to form a partially reflective and partially transmissive surface as disclosed in the reference. Applicants disagree for the reasons previously discussed.

Further, the Examiner contends that Akins et al (column 10, lines 23-30) envisions selectively coating only certain portions of a stepped surface with a reflective coating and hence one of ordinary skill in the art would know that such can be done. On that basis, the Examiner states that either alone, or further in view of Akins et al, the selective coating of only the stepped surfaces in Clabburn would have been obvious to ensure certain portions would be transmissive and to reduce the amount of coating materials needed.

However, column 10, lines 19-30 of Akins et al states that the first faces 142 of the ridged reflector 110 are predominantly or entirely covered by a reflective metallic layer 168, and that the second face 144 preferably is covered with the reflective metallic layer 168 to simplify the manufacturing process. Column 10, lines 27-30 describes an

alternative embodiment in which the second face 142 is not covered with a reflective material, but may be covered with a light absorbing material or the second face may expose a polymeric base material having light-absorbing properties. This would not produce a transreflector having a plurality of spaced first surfaces or areas on which a reflective coating, film or layer is applied to reflect ambient light and a plurality of second surfaces or areas between the first surfaces or areas on which the reflective coating, film or layer is not applied so the second surfaces or areas transmit light from a backlight as recited in claim 12. Thus it is respectfully submitted that the claimed subject matter would not have been obvious in view of Clabburn alone or further in view of Akins et al. Accordingly, claim 12 is submitted as clearly allowable over these references.

Claims 13 and 15-19 depend from claim 12 and are submitted as allowable for substantially the same reasons. Moreover, concerning claims 16-19, while Clabburn discloses in Fig. 1a that a light diffusing layer 23 having graded refractive index microlenses or other features may be provided as an additional layer to the non-diffusive layer 22 with the Fresnel-faceted surface, there is absolutely no teaching in Clabburn that it would be advantageous to texture the second surfaces or areas between the first surfaces or areas on or in one side of a transreflector substrate to facilitate the transmission of light from a backlight through the second surfaces or areas as recited in claim 16, or form optical shapes on or in the second surfaces or areas as recited in claim 17, or form optical deformities on or in the other side of the substrate as recited in claim 18, or apply an antireflection coating to the second surfaces or areas as

recited in claim 19. Accordingly, claims 16-19 are further submitted as allowable in their own right in addition to being dependent on claim 12.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over PCT Publication WO 00/41009 (see Clabburn, the US equivalent) in view of Akins et al (column 8, line 60). According to the Examiner, it would have been obvious to have utilized a hot stamping to form the metallic reflective layer in Clabburn as generally taught in Akins et al dependent on the exact method desired to form the layer. However, claim 14 depends from claim 12 and is submitted as allowable for substantially the same reasons.

In view of the foregoing, further and favorable consideration of the elected claims 12-19 is respectfully requested.

In the event an extension of time is necessary, this should be considered a petition for such an extension. If required, fees are enclosed for the extension of time and/or for the presentation of new and/or amended claims. In the event any additional fees are due in connection with the filing of this reply, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 18-0988 (Attorney Docket GLOLP0113USA).

Respectfully submitted,

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